

Amdt. Dated Nov. 18, 2005

Reply to Office Action of Sept. 6, 2005

Please replace Paragraph [Para 17] with the following amended paragraph:

[Para 17] 2) by heating the ends of the cut plastic ~~stick~~body frame **10** to a temperature high enough for the absorbent material to become attached directly to the semi-melted portions of the ~~stick~~body frame. This would also lower the materials costs over traditional swab manufacture by eliminating the need for adhesives altogether.

In the Abstract section:

Please replace Paragraph [Para 18] with the following amended paragraph:

[Para 18] A swab is detailed which is formed of two components: a straight, flat, wide plastic ~~stick~~body frame with a cutout at each end providing an offset length; and an absorbent material, eithermaterial such as cotton or foam rubber, which is attached to each end of the ~~stick~~body frame completing the swab construction. This design provides a safer and more versatile alternative to traditional swab design.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A swab comprising two primary components:

a straight, wide, flat, elongate body frame(~~stick~~) with two ends opposite one another made of pre-formed plastic with rounded edges; and an absorbent applicator material attached at both ends of the body frame, wherein:

~~an applicator, in this case cotton fiber (although other materials such as foam rubber could be used), attached at opposite ends of the body frame.~~

~~said body frame width is double that of the round sticks used by traditional swabs, providing the amount of body frame width necessary to create an offset length to which the applicator can be affixed, and~~

said body frame is formed with a square cutout at each end resulting in an offset length, and

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the cutout at one end of the body frame is inverse from the cutout at the opposite end of the body frame, and

said absorbent applicator material will be either cotton fiber, foam rubber or any suitable similar type material.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A simplified process for creating the swab including: a swab wherein:

Preparing the swab body frame (stick); and a swab body frame is made using lengths of inexpensive plastic sticks which are cut down to a prescribed length by a standard conveyor system, or

a swab body frame is made using rolls of inexpensive plastic material cut down to a prescribed length by a standard conveyor system, and

a swab body frame is made using a specialized offset metal blade to cut a plastic stick or roll at a prescribed distance along its length to create the swab's body frame, and

Attaching the an absorbent applicator material is attached to the said body frame.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to all Figures 1- 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-6.

In Figure 1, the text "Completed Swab" was removed and the numbers **10** and **11** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 2, the text "Crossection of swab showing stick overlaying cotton applicator (providing relative position of cotton to stick)" was removed and the numbers **10**, **11**, **12a** and **12b** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

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In Figure 3, the text "Stick end view with cutout (showing rounded edges)" was removed and the number **12** was added with an arrow pointing to a certain part of the present invention.

In Figure 4, the text "Stick flat view showing cutouts" was removed and the numbers **12a** and **12b** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 5, the text "Illustration of cutting method along length of plastic strip (flat view)" was removed and the numbers **12a**, **12b** and **13** were added with arrows from each pointing to certain parts of the present invention.

In Figure 6, the text "blade shape" was removed and the number **13** was added with an arrow pointing to a certain part of the present invention.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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[Para 16] 1) A small amount of adhesive can be applied to each end of the body frame **11**, whereupon the absorbent material **10** is attached to the adhesive covered areas. If using cotton fiber as the applicator material, this would be followed by twisting the body frame **10** to wrap the material into the applicator shape. In relation to rolling and applying cotton fiber specifically, please refer to U.S. Pat. No. 3,090,080 (Pellicone et al.), U.S. Pat. No. 3,452,650 (Cobb) and Canadian Patent 990,564 (Cottrell).; or

[Para 17] 2) By heating the ends of the cut plastic body frame **10** to a temperature high enough for the absorbent material to become attached directly to the semi-melted portions of the body frame. This would also lower the materials costs over traditional swab manufacture by eliminating the need for adhesives altogether.

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A swab comprising two primary components:

a straight, wide, flat, elongate body frame with two ends opposite one another made of pre-formed plastic with rounded edges; and an absorbent applicator material attached at both ends of the body frame, wherein:

said body frame width is double that of the round sticks used by traditional swabs, providing the amount of body frame width necessary to create an offset length to which the applicator can be affixed, and

said body frame is formed with a square cutout at each end resulting in an offset length, and

the cutout at one end of the body frame is inverse from the cutout at the opposite end of the body frame, and

said absorbent applicator material will be either cotton fiber, foam rubber or any suitable similar type material.

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[Claim 2] A simplified process for creating a swab wherein:

a swab body frame is made using lengths of inexpensive plastic sticks which are cut down to a prescribed length by a standard conveyor system, or

a swab body frame is made using rolls of inexpensive plastic material cut down to a prescribed length by a standard conveyor system, and

a swab body frame is made using a specialized offset metal blade to cut a plastic stick or roll at a prescribed distance along its length to create the swab's body frame, and

an absorbent applicator material is attached to said body frame.